

## STEAM ENGINEERING AND BOILER INSPECTION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FEBRUARY 6, 1925.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

MR. GASQUE, from the Committee on the District of Columbia  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11701]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11701) to amend an act entitled "An act to regulate steam engineering in the District of Columbia," approved February 28, 1887, having considered the same report it back to the House with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to amend the act of February 28, 1887, now existing, governing the licensing of steam engineering in the District of Columbia and to bring the said law of 1887 up to date to meet the requirements of modern methods and practices in the operation of machinery now in use in plants and in industrial and commercial pursuits and in places of amusement. These amendments are for the safety of the public and operators. They have the approval and indorsement of engineer organizations of the District of Columbia, the board of examiners of engineering of the District of Columbia, the corporation counsel of the District of Columbia, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

The present bill in operation in the District of Columbia for the licensing of engineers was passed in 1887. At that time there were very few engines, if any, operated in the District of Columbia except those operated by steam. Since that time, due to development, other internal-combustion engines and refrigerating machines have come into use and it is deemed wise to have some law regulating the licensing of engineers who operate these very dangerous machines.

The amendment of the title is made so as to include all engines.

Amendments A to G, inclusive, and I are desirable in that they provide for including engineers operating other than steam plants, such as gas engines, gasoline engines, and electrical and refrigerating machinery, thus meeting modern requirements:

The word "knowingly" in line 15, page 2, is omitted because the owner of the plant should know that his engineer is licensed, and no loophole should be provided.

The purpose of amendment H is to subject the unlicensed operator to punishment as well as the man who hires him.

In regard to amendment J, the \$50 penalty calls for a jury trial and consequent delay. By changing the word "fifty" to "forty" in section 6, jury trials will not be necessary.

Amendment L is a safety precaution which will require licensed engineers for boilers equipped with automatic safeguards. Disasters in the District of Columbia caused by too much dependence being placed on automatic appurtenances led to the recommendation that this amendment be adopted. The only exception is where the water returns by gravity.

The purpose of amendment M is to establish reciprocity between the States and the District of Columbia. The old law granted licensed engineers of any State the right to practice in the District of Columbia, notwithstanding the fact that licensed engineers of the District of Columbia were not accorded the same privilege in that State.

The amendments carried in this bill were thoroughly discussed at a conference of the District officials and the engineer organizations of the District of Columbia, and it is the consensus of opinion that these amendments are very desirable.

Your committee feels that this measure is of greatest importance to the safety of the general public and those engaged in the industries, and we respectfully urge its early passage.

